Development of adventure tourism in HP

765. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote adventure and winter sport/ tourism in the Hill States to attract international tourists;

(b) whether any allocation of funds has been proposed to develop the desired infrastructure and facilities; and

(c) if so, what allocation has been made for Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territories for the development of tourism including adventure and sports facilities on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 952.70 lakhs has been sanctioned for the tourism projects to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh during the first two years of the 10th Plan.

Renovation of historical tourist places

†766. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans from foreign countries have been received for renovation of historical tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the historical tourist places for the renovation of which this amount will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Infrastructure development project along the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was carried out by undertaking loan assistance of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The works undertaken were at Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.